

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

FLETCHER, Ernie (Republican)  
Representative, 6th District, Kentucky  
Elected 1998 to 106th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Mt. Sterling, Kentucky - 12 November 1952

Home: Lexington, Kentucky

Marital Status: Married (Glenna) - 2 children

Religion: Baptist

Education: Univ of Kentucky, BS, 1974; MD, 1980-84

Military: US Air Force, 1974-80; former F-4 aircraft commander (Elmendorf)

Profession: Family physician

Political: Kentucky House 1995-96; ran for US House, 1996. Defeated State Sen Ernesto Scorsone (D) in 1998 general election with 53% of the vote to succeed Rep Scotty Baesler (D) who ran unsuccessfully for the Senate. Reelected in 2000 with 53%.

Rep Fletcher, a conservative, ran on a platform of protecting Social Security and Medicare and reforming health care among his top priorities. Supports medical savings accounts, a "fairer, flatter" tax system, home schooling and school choice proposals. Opposes government-run health care, abortions and efforts to increase tobacco taxes. This swing district includes many tobacco and horse farms, both Toyota and Hitachi automotive plants, as well as liquor distilleries.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, criticized President Clinton's proposal to increase tobacco taxes by 55 cents a pack. Introduced H.R. 2046, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure access by participants and beneficiaries of group health plans to information regarding plan coverage, managed care procedures, health care providers, and quality of medical care. In 1999 sponsored a provision in the FY00 DoD authorization bill directing the Army to evaluate alternatives to incineration as a means of disposing of chemical munitions stored at the Bluegrass Army Depot. Voiced strong support for the F-22. In May 2000 supported the extension of permanent normal trade relations with China, emphasizing that his support was contingent on China dropping non-tariff barriers on US tobacco products and on improvement of China's human rights record, including greater religious freedom. In July 2000 opposed the congressional pay raise, stressing his belief that more resources should be returned to the taxpayers.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, announced that he would help introduce companion legislation in the House to Sen McConnell's (R-KY) bill, S. 1431, to authorize the Sec/Treasury to issue war bonds in support of the recovery and response efforts relating to September 11, 2001, hijackings and attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

Additional: Member, Air Force Caucus; district includes the Bluegrass Army Depot; in Dec 1999 took an F-15 familiarization ride with the 27FS at Langley AFB

AF Bases: None (Richmond RBSS closed, property disposed of in 1994)

## COMMITTEES

ENERGY AND COMMERCE